A navigation system includes an automatic speech recognition program that
matches spoken words that describe geographic features, such as places, street names and
points of interest, to entries in a word list. The word list contains a limited number of
entries. In order to increase the likelihood that a word spoken by a user of the navigation
system is included among the limited number of entries contained in the word list, the
word list is built to include entries that correspond to the named geographic features
closest to a current position of a vehicle in which the navigation system is installed. As
the vehicle travels through a geographic area, the word list is rebuilt to include entries
that correspond to the named geographic features closest to the new current vehicle
position. In addition, the word list also contains a limited number of entries that
correspond to named geographic features that may not be close to the current vehicle
position but that are included because of their popularity or importance.

ABSTRACT